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**Governor's Speech**  
**Enhancing Anti-Money Laundering and Countering of Terrorist Financing Activities**  
**(AML/CFT) Workshop**  
**Central Bank of Samoa Conference Room, Level 6**  
**8-12 March 2013**

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Dear Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Talofa and Good Morning.

Let me first, welcome you all this morning and thank you for accepting our invitation to participate in this important workshop.

This program is jointly organized by the Money Laundering Prevention Authority and the Australian Transaction Reporting and Analysis Centre (AUSTRAC) and it is specifically designed for law enforcement agencies and the relevant Ministries and Authorities in Samoa.

On behalf of the Money Laundering Prevention Authority (MLPA) and the Central Bank, I would like to acknowledge our sincere gratitude and appreciation for the many assistance AUSTRAC has offered to Samoa through its Technical Assistance Program in the past, including this week's program which is focused on a more crucial area of our AML/CFT system.(i.e. analysis of AML/CFT risks and ways to mitigate those risks, including proper sharing and exchange of information for purpose of investigation and prosecution)

On that note, let me extend a warm welcome to Ms Stacey Cornford and Mr Philip Engstrom from AUSTRAC. We are grateful to have the presence of a very experienced team of experts with us this week. They will be leading and guiding discussions on relevant topics and sharing with us their experience, skills and knowledge in the area of AML/CFT.

I hope that you will have an enjoyable stay in Samoa, and that you will have the opportunity to visit and enjoy some spectacular scenes of our islands.

Can I also thank the representatives from the various Government Ministries and Authorities who are here with us today. We appreciate your presence to be part of this important event and we look forward to your invaluable contributions to ensure this week's meeting a success.

The Program:

A quick look at the agenda indicates that you have an intensive program ahead of you. You will be covering a lot of important details, particularly, in relation to money laundering and terrorism risks and strategies to mitigate or prevent such risks from undermining the financial soundness and stability of Samoa's financial system.

You will be discussing, among others, ways to assess and identify sectoral risks. I believe, this is one of the key areas covered in our National Risk Assessment in order to take a more proactive approach towards developing our capacity to properly manage such risks. From Samoa's perspective, the most important risk is reputational risk. i.e. that Samoa, as a country, must not be perceived as having a weak and ineffective AML/CFT system and therefore vulnerable to abuse by financial criminal activities, including money laundering and terrorist financing.

Revised FATF 40 recommendations:

The revised FATF 40 recommendations adopted in February 2012, stipulates in Recommendation 1 for countries :

1. to identify and assess money laundering and terrorist financing risks.
2. to designate an authority or mechanism to co-ordinate actions to assess risks.
3. to keep the risk assessment up-to-date; and
4. to have mechanisms to provide on the results of the risk assessment(s) to all relevant competent authorities and self-regulatory bodies (SRBs); financial institutions and Designated Non Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs).

So based on their understanding of their risks, countries should apply a risk-based approach to allocating resources and implementing measures to prevent or mitigate ML/TF.

In simple terms, we should know better of the types of risks our country and our systems face and exposed to in terms of financial crime, be it domestic or transnational in nature. Because, once we have a good grasp of that information and knowledge, then efforts to counter, detect and prosecute any criminal activities should be more effective and efficient.

In fact, if executed properly, thru effective coordination and cooperation efforts, it will certainly contribute to a more safe and secured environment that shall underpin the interests of genuine investors to invest in Samoa.

Hence, this is a timely opportunity to learn and exchange valuable skills and techniques that should further enhance our capability that should add value to our efforts to make our AML/CFT system more effective.

Samoa's compliance with FATF Standards:

As you may be aware, there are a number of FATF recommendations under which Samoa is being rated as either non-compliant or partially compliant based on its previous mutual assessment by the APG/OGBS back in February 2006. However, despite a lot of improvements made to our AML/CFT system since then, there are still some crucial areas that require more efforts and commitment at both national and international level for further enhancement to satisfactorily meet these standards.

I should mention at this stage that our Parliament at its recent Sitting passed the new Crimes Act 2013 last month on the 27 of March. The MLP Authority is currently pursuing the passing of another key legislation i.e. The Counter Terrorism Bill 2013 which is expected for final reading at the next Sitting sometime soon. Indeed, both these laws will further improve our legislative framework against such criminal offences, as well as, enhancing Samoa's position in satisfying international requirements of the FATF.

International Focus:

In brief, the international focus is now on the effective implementation of AML/CFT laws and regulations; effective exchange and sharing of information among law enforcement agencies and relevant authorities at both national and international level for investigation and prosecution of criminal offences; effective oversight by FIUs of financial institutions obligations under prevailing legislation and regulations; effective mechanism to deal with cross-border issues in terms of international organized crime activities.

Be that as it may, it is crucially important for us to ensure that we have in place adequate and effective safeguard measures for the protection of our financial system and our country's reputation from any abuse by criminal individuals or groups involved in money laundering.

Conclusion:

Let me again thank Stacey and Philip from Austrac for their assistance in this program. So, I urge you to ask questions and to be actively involve in discussions this week and make use of this opportunity that will only benefit you in your specialized field of responsibilities in our fight against crime. I wish you all a fruitful and successful week of deliberations.

I now have the pleasure of officially opening this workshop.

Soifua.]